



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663
HALIFAX NS
B3J 2T3

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club web site is www.halifax-arc.org



Happy Valentine's Day



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421
See the HARC Web site at: <http://www.halifax-arc.org>

Our executive and committees.

Position Name & Call Sign	Phone #	E-Mail
President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
First V.P. - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	ve1wo@rac.ca
2nd V.P. - Darryll Perrin, VE1HUP	826-1439	ve1hup@rac.ca
Secretary - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Treasurer - John Goodwin, VE1CDD	865-5731	ve1cdd@rac.ca
Member at Large, Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Club Station Mgr. - Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PHK		ve1phk@rac.ca
Past President - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@rac.ca

Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Public Relations: Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH	832-3660	ve1wph@rac.ca
IPARN and Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau Manager -		
Bob Burns, VE1VCK	865-9414	ve1vck@rac.ca
EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP	466-8723	dgeorge@is.dal.ca
Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT	865-8567	ve1ent@rac.ca
Reflector Dist. - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Membership - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS,	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
Basic ham course - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
EMO Trailer Assembly coord - David Musgrave, VE1EDA	435-4333	ve1eda@rac.ca
Flea market 2004 Chair'man - Ed Grace, VE1EGG	865-8295	ve1egga@rac.ca
Field Day coordinator - NEEDED		
RAC Asst Director - Wayne Marchand, VE1WJM,	860-1580	ve1wjm@rac.ca
NSARA Director - Joe MacPherson, VE1CH	852-1295	ve1ch@rac.ca
Frequency coordinator for Nova Scotia - Bev Reynolds, VE1TL		

Take-15 Net Controllers

NOTE: There have been some changes. This will be the rotation. If you cannot take the net on your particular evening get in touch with one of the others and trade places with them. If I have left any one off the list, or you want to join, please let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.



Feb. 13	Doug	VE1LDL
Feb. 20	Dave	VE1EDA
Feb. 27	Charles	VE1MCR
Mar. 6	Herb	VE1HX
Mar. 13	Chris	VA1CDB
Mar. 20	Pierre	VE1PTR

Maritime Swap Shop changed

Due to a work conflict with the Controller VE1PJS. The Net (Swap Shop) will now take place on Monday Evenings at 7:30 PM (local time) on the frequency of 3750 MHZ following The Maritime Net . The controller is still Peter, VE1PJS and all information will still pass through him.

The HRM EMO/ham Advisory Committee Web page is at www.ve1hre.ca

*It's what's left that counts, so make the most of it
-Child Amputee Program*

GENERAL INFORMATION



TAKE-15 NET: Sunday evenings at 8:30 PM on VE1PSR/VHF

CLUB REPEATERS:

VE1HNS -	146.940 MHz -
VE1PSR/VHF -	147.270 MHz +
VE1PSR/UHF -	444.350 MHz +
VE1PSR/6M -	53.550 MHz +
	PL 151.4 Hz

PACKET:

VE1NSD 145.050 MHz LAN NODE
VE1BBS - Local packet BBS
accessible through the LAN

FOR SALE

Open to club members, there is a surplus receiver for sale. This is a Yaesu FRG-7700, cleaned, tested and in good working condition. Asking \$300 or reasonable offer. Offers accepted until Feb. 16th. Contact Fraser MacDougall, VE1WO at 865-4198 or ve1wo@rac.ca

Deadline for submissions to the March Reflector is Saturday, Mar. 5, 2005

MID WINTER AMATEUR BREAKFAST

When: 9 AM SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 19, 2005



Where: HALIFAX STEAK & STEIN
corner of Robie & Young Streets,
Halifax

Reservations not required, but contact
VE1ENT, Lynn, with intentions and
rough numbers in order that we set up
enough tables.

E-mail to ve1ent@rac.ca
or phone (902)-865-8567



Regular Steak & Stein
breakfast menu in effect,
wide variety of choices
at reasonable prices.



Individual bills will be provided

Events for Your Calendar

February 19 – Ham Breakfast

February 26 and March 5 – Basic
EMO Com Courses – For more de-
tails and to participate (first timer or
a “refresher”) see item on this page.

June 11 will be the date of the 2005
DownEast Flea Market

August 13&14., 2005 -MS Bike Tour

The 6th annual Search & Rescue
Competition will take place **Sept. 9
to 11, 2005**. Club co-ordinators for a
special event station are Dick,
VE1AI, and Scott, VE1QD.

Tune in to the **EMO NET** conducted
by David, VE1EDA, each Sunday
evening at 1930 local (7:30 PM) on
VE1PSR repeater (147.27).

The goal of the net is to keep all
Amateur's informed on any news
about EMO and to increase the inter-
est in emergency preparedness.

**An emergency preparedness event
is being planned for April.
Tune into the Take 15 Net
for more information.**

*"Cats are smarter than dogs. You
can't get eight cats to pull a sled
through snow." -- Jeff Valdez*

DOWNEAST FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY JUNE 11, '05

Where:

The Halifax Forum Complex
corner of Young and Windsor
St., Halifax

Doors open: for sellers at 0630
for buyers at 0900

The tables are free;

Entry fee is \$3.00 per person

Reserve tables by contacting
David Nimmo at ve1nn@rac.ca

Talk in frequency: VE1PSR
(147.270+)

Ham Social Friday night June 10,
2005 at 1900 at The Jolly Mug for
info contact ve1pq@rac.ca

Breakfast get together at 0730
June 11/05 at the Steak and Stein,
6061 Young St, Halifax

There will be a talk by Wayne,
VE1WPH, on the ISS set up

Hope to see you there---
73's-----Ed, VE1EGG

**Are you up to date with your
HARC membership dues?**

Yearly rates are as follows:

Full = \$25 Associate = \$15
Family (2 members) = \$35 + \$10
for each additional family member
at same address (only 1 newsletter)

**2005 KCARC February CW
Contest** Visit the KCARC Web
site for contest rules.

<http://www.kcarc.ns.ca>

A new stock of **Anderson
Powerpole connectors** is now on
hand. If you have not already con-
verted all your gear to Powerpole
connectors you should consider do-
ing so. Place orders with Tom
Caithness, VE1GTC by E-mail at:
tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca

Price = \$1.25 each (for a red and
black connector for one complete
end). To make a complete mating
pair will require 2 connectors.

Two Basic EMO Com Courses for

Amateur Radio operators are
scheduled:

February 26 from 9AM to 3PM
March 5 from 9AM to 3PM

Where: at the EOC.

Instructor will be Tom, VE1GTC.

Bring your own lunch;
coffee will be provided.

Contact Tom to reserve your seat.

tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca

Or phone 477-7081

*On February 5, Tom, under the aus-
pices of the NSARA, conducted a Ba-
sic EMO Com Course in Amherst as
requested by Amherst area EMO Co-
ordinator, Jim Hannon. -ed.*

Where to get Callbooks

The Maritime Provinces Callbook
2004 is available at Cohoon's Appli-
ance Service at 109 Ilsley Ave. in
Burnside Industrial park during their
open hours of
8:30 AM to 5:00 PM Monday
through Friday and
Saturdays 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

If you hear someone from
out of town asking where they can
get a callbook then this is probably
their best bet on short notice.

The Club station is a good space for
ham radio activities but **please re-
serve your date & time** with Station
Manager Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PHK
(E-mail ve1phk@rac.ca)

This is to prevent the disappointment
of arriving at the Club Station and
finding someone else has booked it
for the same time you wanted to use it.
So booking with Pat is a must!!

HARC 's **Digital Communication
Special Interest Group** aims to ex-
periment with as many digital modes,
software and hardware as possible.
If you're interested, contact John,
VE1CDD, at ve1cdd@rac.ca or by
phone (865-5731)

*Is it true that cannibals don't eat
clowns because they taste funny?*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone survived the January snow shovelling without wrecking their back or arms. The days are noticeably longer and finally starting to warm up a little, a great time to start antenna work!!

Lynn went to the Canadiana Restaurant to see about reservations for the Ham Breakfast and they could not accommodate us. A few days later we went to the Steak&Stein and they will gladly receive us. So in spite of trying to change venue we will be at the usual spot again this year. Please let Lynn know if you are coming and how many in the party so we can give the restaurant an approximate count.

I was up to the Cowie Hill repeater site a couple of times in the past few days and now have the 6M repeater working well. Thanks to Neil, VE1YZ for coming along to help out. The first day we got the duplexer retuned and installed the repeater only to find the output was very low. There was also intermod on the receive frequency so Neil suggested putting a CTCSS tone on the receiver. The radio was equipped to take CTCSS so we removed the repeater and I took it back home. I retuned the PA and put a tone of 151.4 Hz on the receiver. The next day we put the repeater in and again found the output very low, removed the case, took off a cover plate retuned the PA and put the case back on leaving the cover plate off so I could retune without removing the repeater. We now have a nice working 6M repeater but you will need to transmit a CTCSS tone of 151.4 Hz to access it. I will try to put an announcement on the 6M repeater to tell listeners to use a tone of 151.4 Hz.

That is all for this month, hope to see you at the meeting.

73 - Bill, VE1MR

Silent Key

Claude Wigle (Wig) VE1CEW died January 20 in hospital. Claude was for many years a Radio Technical Supervisor at CBC Halifax as well as being a Amateur Radio operator. He served over seas for six years in the Second World War.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 48

The Sound Card Amateur Message Protocol--or SCAMP--is not just a conference paper topic anymore. On-the-air testing of the digital communication protocol began in late November. SCAMP is intended for transmitting messages--text with binary attachments--via 2-kHz bandwidth HF and VHF voice channels.

More in the March issue of the HARC Reflector

Why don't you ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Certificate Presentations

Just as an afterthought, following last months entertainment on certificate hunting, I was wondering if we should not have a short segment in the monthly meeting for Certificate presentations.

Anyone who earns a new certificate could bring it along to the club meeting for presentation during the meeting, complete with a short description of what the certificate is and the qualifications are required.

Everyone could learn what others are working on and gain more insight into just what is available.

I would appreciate any comments pro and con, either at the meeting or via e-mail to ve1ai@rac.ca

Dick - VE1AI

EMO EXERCISE

Exercise "Sandpiper" will be coming up in April of 2005. The purpose of the exercise will be to refresh the Amateur operators with passing of messages, to test the call out system, to test drive the Tel com plan. And MOST of all to have fun in doing so. We will be conducting the exercise ourselves and it will not be a scenario type, but sending messages composed by the operators, problem solving, and reporting any deficiencies found in the operation.

Tom Caithness, VE1GTC

Silent Key

Earl Kelly, VE1EWK, died Jan.29 in Camp Hill Hospital. He was a VIP Veteran of the Korean War and worked with the DND for 35 years. He is described as having been an avid ham and CB radio operator

Safety – Working on Roofs

By Terry R. Bigelow, VE1TRB
 "After much research regarding working on roofs, I have come up with the following information from the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations; In a nut shell, if you are going to have someone working within 2 meters of the edge of a flat roof, that is more than 3 meters high, you must have a fall protection plan in place."

More in the March issue of the HARC Reflector

NET CONTROLLERS

I have added two new net controllers and I would like to see at least two more if possible. It is an easy job and with an increasing number of net controllers you would only be doing the net a few times a year. This is an easy way to do something for the club

Thank you for reading.

Bill Elliott, VE1MR
 Phone - 865-8567
 E-mail - ve1mr@rac.ca

DX n' HF QRP DXing

This month I thought might talk a bit about DXing with QRP.

For this article QRP can be in the traditional sense of 5 watts or less but these principles also apply to those DXer's who run 100 watts of Transmit power. If it works for 5 watts it will work better for 100 watts.

There has been a lot of DX talk in the Reflector and at the club meetings and I certainly want to discount the thought that you need to be a "Big Gun" to be a DXer. Nothing could be further from the truth.

I would like to re-emphasise that HF can be FUN and DXing can be FUN too. It's all about what can I work with the station that I have assembled. It's just my stuff, the DX station, and the atmosphere between us.

1. The first factor in DXing is your ANTENNA. The dollars invested in good and effective antennas will reap infinitely more reward than an equivalent investment in radio gear. A Watt is a Watt and it sounds the same from a lower cost radio as it does from a multi-thousand dollar radio. The guy on the other end will not know the difference. There is a difference in receivers however, as the price climbs. Nevertheless, a beam and tower, will do more than a linear amplifier, by far. Getting your antenna up high is crucial. A rotatable dipole at 55 ft is an awesome antenna. There are also some good verticals available. However nothing can compare to a beam well up in the air. Because it also works for you on Transmit and Receive.

2. The second factor is, as I have said many times -- LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN. Find the frequency that the DX station is listening on. You can only do this by listening intently and finding the stations he is working. If he is working split frequency and not transceive, then find his listening frequency. Often times the reverse is true, you hear all the stations calling

before you find the DX station. Listening is the most important DX fact. Those who fail to listen are doomed to failure. Those who listen intently, will get to do the DXer's dance. (this is characterized by rapid ejection from the operating chair, prancing around the room with extremities flailing, all the time while shouting incomprehensible sounds of I g...got.....A52.....wid5.....WATTS.....ffffiiiiiiivvvve.....wts.)

3. TIMING is everything. Calling when the DX station is just ready to copy a new call is exactly what must be done. Many times I hear stations from various countries calling the DX station even when the DX station is still transmitting. What do you call that? ... yep, stupid. That's it. No matter how good the DX station is, he will not copy your call when he is transmitting. The more you listening the better your timing becomes. Sometimes a millisecond will get the DX attention. That "V" on the front of your call gets attention. Get it in there just as you figure his receiver cuts in. If you too fast, he will miss the V and only get part of your call. If your too slow, your whole call can easily get buried. As your timing improves so does your country total. This is easy to perfect.

4. With QRP a lot of THOUGHT is required before jumping in and calling a DX station. Ask yourself how loud is the DX. If he is S9 and you are running 5 watts, then you will be S6 or so to him. Think about this. Also listen to see how much power he is running. If he is running 100 watts or less, you will certainly be heard at his end. If he is running a KW at some big DX-

pedition and he is S3 and you are struggling to hear him, then go have a coffee and come back later. There is no point in getting frustrated. Time your response. Be quick and decisive. If you are true QRP, that is 5 watts or less, you can often get away with throwing in a QRP at an appropriate time. It may get his attention and many DX stations will make a special "stand by" for a QRP station. Watch the propagation. Find out when it peaks. That is your best time.

5. POSITION is very important in QRP DXing. Where do I call. (This only applies to DX stations who are working other than transceive). Having been on the DX end many times, I can say from experience that when there are too many stations calling on exactly the same frequency you tend to tune to the high side of the pile of stations calling. That is where you want to be, on the high side. This works best if you are on the high side of his listening frequency.

6. MODE is also a consideration when QRP DXing. Most of the time in SSB, the DX station will answer the loudest signal. That is not so on CW. The DX station can often distinguish a different pitch, the QRP, and even a weak signal in the presence of louder ones. It is certainly easier to catch more DX on CW than on SSB when using QRP.

7. ARRL recently announced a special DXCC for QRP. This was many years in the making and they do not need the QSL's. You should have them but you do not need to submit them. This is for applicants who are running 5 watts or less. There is no way to verify your power level so the QSL's are not required and the award is based on the honour system.

I will be applying for mine very soon as I have nearly 200 countries worked with 5 watts from a Ten Tec Argonaut II. It's been a blast. Jump in, and as Scott would say "Just do it". Good Hunting.

Puzzler – Do You Know?

In amateur circles, what did the initials CAROA stand for?



Answer on page 7

Dick (VE1AI)

Some APRS Basics

By Rick VE1RGG
HARC APRS Coordinator

Many people in the Maritimes are becoming interested in using APRS equipment (Automatic Position Reporting System) but are not sure where to start. I will try to provide some basic information regarding APRS to our club members in order to help get people started. It is also my goal to work with other Maritime APRS Coordinators to ensure we are operating our equipment in the best possible manner. HAM radio is a hobby with a wide variety of interests and this is one area that can be explored and put to good use.

There are 3 basic pieces of equipment required which are: a GPS unit capable of being connected to a serial port, a dedicated 2 M radio set to the national APRS frequency of 144.39 MHz, and a controller such as a TinyTrak3, OpenTracker, or micro-TNC. These tracking devices also need programming software (which normally comes with the unit) in order to set various beaconing parameters. These trackers, what ever type you use, will need to be programmed with a call sign, a symbol, and a digi-path. Various other beaconing parameters have to be set within the device as well but default values may be used. One parameter I highly recommend setting to "on" were possible is "send only valid". This inhibits transmissions of null information when the GPS isn't locked on to a position.

If you plan to monitor APRS signals then you will also need software like UI-View or AGWTracker (which also needs AGWPE packet engine software). You can use the monitoring software in two ways: connected to the internet or connected to a radio via a tnc or sound card interface. Using the radio method means having yet another dedicated radio set to 144.39 MHz. The ability to create or locate maps in the proper format is also required. I will leave the topic of monitoring and map making to other articles.

The "digi-path" or "unproto address" is the route that the position report signal will take once it sent out over the air waves. The path should be set differently according to whether you are a fixed station or a mobile.

Fixed Stations:

Should use WideN-N (e.g. Wide3-3 or Wide2-2)

When Wide3-3 is used the signal will take 3 hops counting down Wide3-3, Wide3-2, and Wide3-1 with each hop. This limits the hops to a fixed number and limits the range of the signal being sent. In Halifax Wide3-3 should be sufficient. The intent is to send the signal enough hops to get it out over the internet where it can be handed over to a national APRS server. WideN-N digipeaters are set up around the province at controlled locations. Fixed stations can normally reach WideN-N digipeaters and should not transmit "Relay" in their digi-path (i.e. do not transmit using a digi-path with "Relay, Wide3-3" for fixed stations).

In order to minimize traffic, individuals should not plan to set up a permanent WideN-N digipeater without checking with local APRS coordinators. Setting up a "Relay" fixed station digipeater is encouraged but we don't need two on the same block active at the same time. Any place that can fill in a gap in the network is desirable.

Mobiles:

Should use Relay, WideN-N (e.g. Relay, Wide3-3)

The WideN-N portion serves the same purpose as in the path for fixed stations. The "Relay" path at the start is intended to fill in gaps where there isn't any reception by the WideN-N network. For example, if you are driving in an area where your mobile cannot reach a WideN-N digipeater and there is a local HAM station set to digipeat on "Relay" it will assist the mobile by passing the position report to the WideN-N network. This is why it

is important for fixed stations not to transmit "Relay" in their path. Home digipeaters will end up transmitting each others signals needlessly because each one can hear a WideN-N digipeater and this will eventually create lots of unnecessary traffic.

Placing just "Wide" (without N-N) in the path should no longer used. This method doesn't result in the countdown procedure and can potentially send a report over great distances. Most of the states in the USA are beginning to use a two letter designation for their digi-path. If, in Nova Scotia, we used "NS" as a digi-path and set our digipeaters in Nova Scotia to digi on this path as well as WideN-N then our local location reports would be sent throughout the province. This would be helpful if you lived in Sydney and were visiting Yarmouth and would like your location reports to get back home. You would not likely know how many hops it would take to do this anyway. If, for example, it took Wide6-6 to do get the report back home then you would have to re-program your tracker for this trip. Using Wide6-6 may also result in your signal hopping across to New Brunswick, into Maine and on towards Boston which probably isn't necessary.

Different combinations may be used for your digi-path depending on your needs. The call signs of specific digipeaters may also be placed in a specific sequence in order to follow a specific route. To send your position reports to some specific areas from your mobile tracker you could use the following:

To PEI: V E 1 M T T , V E 1 T R O ,
VE1AIC-1
St. John, NB Relay, VE1MTT,
VE1AEH, VE9GFI-1
Nova Scotia: Relay, NS <not implemented yet>

APRS equipment has proven to be a great help for tracking vehicles in events such as the MS Bike Tour. APRS could be used for many other

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**Halifax Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the General Monthly
Meeting of Wednesday,
January 19th, 2005**

President Bill (VE1MR) called the meeting to order at 1931 with 41 members in attendance.

Executive in attendance:

Bill Elliott (VE1MR) – President; Dick Grantham (VE1AI) Past-president; Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) – First Vice-president; Second Vice-president – Darryl Perrin (VE1HUP); John Goodwin (VE1CDD) – Treasurer; Howard Dickson (VE1DHD) – Secretary; Pat Kavanaugh (VE1PHK) – Station Manager; Tom Caithness (VE1GTC) – Member-at-Large.

Silent Keys: VE1RAB – Reg Bonang of Porters Lake Nova Scotia.

Guests: VE1DTY – Terry Myer of Halifax (recently licensed Ham), and VE1TAD Tom Doggett of Fletchers Lake Nova Scotia.

Minutes of the monthly meeting of November 17th, 2004:

MOTION - Approval of the minutes of the November monthly meeting as published in the January 2005 Reflector was moved by Jim (VE1SFX) and seconded by Bob (VE1TX) – Motion carried.

Executive Reports:

Treasurer – John reported a December month-end bank balance of \$ 8,527.49. A copy of the monthly statement is appended to the hard file copy of these minutes.

MOTION – acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was moved by Peter (VE1PJW) and seconded by Jim (VE1JIM). Motion carried.

Secretary – Howard (VE1DHD) reported on the bidding for the advertised Ham III rotor which the Club is selling. Two bids were received and the highest bid of \$250 was from Jeff Smith (VE1ZAC). Howard will contact Jeff concerning the completion of this transaction.

President – In response to a question

from the floor, President Bill reported that he had no recent information on the possible closure of the Bloomfield School.

First Vice-president – Fraser (VE1WO) reported that Mel Lever (VE1VX) of Dartmouth had donated a 2-meter and complete HF stations to the Halifax Club. In return, he asked that the Club make a donation to the Brit Fader Trust in the amount of \$1500 or an amount sufficient to bring the Trust total to \$10,000 – the amount required to initiate the awarding of Scholarships. Fraser also reported that Bill Delahay (VE1APZ) had made a donation of a keyer and paddles to the Club.

ACTION: Secretary (VE1DHD) to send a letter of thanks to both parties.

Fraser also reported that Callbook sales were going well with over 900 sold to this point.

Second Vice-president – Darryl (VE1HUP) had nothing to report.

Past-president – Dick (VE1AI) reported on the planning for the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary North American S&R Competition coming up in September of this year. The Auxiliary have requested that HARC set up a Special Event Station for this event. Dick is in the process of requesting a Special Event Call-sign from Industry Canada for the event. Scott (VE1QD) is also a member of this committee.

Station Manager - Pat (VE1PHK) had nothing to report.

Member-at-Large – Tom (VE1GTC) reported on Membership; see below.

Committee Reports:

Membership – Tom (VE1GTC) reported that there are 104 paid-up members for 2005 (73 Full / 29 Associate / 2 Life). Those who have not yet paid dues for 2005 (\$25) are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

Search & Rescue – Dave (VE1AJP) was unusually constrained (vocally) by a severe case of laryngitis but did

manage to indicate that the S&R Team has been busy over the Christmas break and into the New Year. The Team has not recovered the radios that were taken from the S&R Command Vehicle, but new replacement Radios have arrived.

EMO – Tom (VE1GTC) reported that there will be an EMO exercise (Sandpiper) sometime in April that is being designed to test the Call-Out capabilities of Radio Amateurs in an emergency.

Tom also informed the membership of two upcoming EMO Amateur Radio Communication Course dates. This one-day course will provide Amateur Radio attendees with Level 2 Communication Certification. The course dates are Saturday February 26 and Saturday March 5; both will be held in the Halifax Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) located within the EMO facility in Dartmouth. The course will run each day from 0900 to 1500 hrs.

Flea Market 2005 – Tom (VE1GTC) reported on a date change for the 2005 Down East Flea Market in Halifax. It will now take place at the Halifax Forum Annex on Saturday, June 11th, with a Friday evening reception at the Jolly Mug and a breakfast Saturday at the Steak and Stein. All are welcome. Tables are free to sellers, and admission for all is \$3.00.

Old Business:

Field Day 2005 – President Bill brought the previously tabled motion by VE1DHD – Howard and seconded by Dick – VE1AI – back to the floor for further discussion and a vote. (See November Minutes). A number of people spoke to the November Motion:

MOTION – "HARC alternate annually between the 2-Alpha and 2-Foxtrot classes, with 2-Foxtrot being the class of choice for 2005."

It was also pointed out that the old Tantallon Field Day site was to be

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Minutes (Continued from page 6)

come the home for a new high school and so would likely not be available in 2005 or in the future.

It was reiterated that Field Day has always been about emergency preparedness and that this can have a focus on setting up stations in remote areas (the field) or now with the new Foxtrot class, it can be a way of exercising the capabilities of Radio Amateurs at an official EMO facility.

After extensive discussion, Heather (VE1HKY) offered an amendment.

AMMENDMENT to the MOTION – Seconded by Lynn (VE1ENT), that "2-Foxtrot be the class of choice for 2005" leaving it open to consider all options in 2006.

When called, the amendment to the original motion CARRIED (24 for / 3 against).

The amended motion was called and CARRIED.

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club will carry out Field Day in 2005 at the EOC in Dartmouth.

New Business:

2005 Budget – President Bill passed the Chair over to the 1st Vice-President Fraser in order to lead the Membership through the proposed HARC Budget for 2005.

MOTION – by Bill (VE1MR) and seconded by Jim (VE1JIM) to approve the 2005 Budget plan. There were several questions from the floor on the budget. One question related to provisions in the Budget for a possible move from the Bloomfield Centre. President Bill assured that there was adequate flexibility in the Budget to accommodate a move. Another question related to the possibility of the Club getting Insurance through RAC. President Bill indicated that even if this becomes possible, there will be a cost associated with that coverage, and so there needs to be a budget line item for Club insurance.

When called, the motion passed unanimously.

Ham Breakfast 2005 - President Bill

and Lynn (VE1ENT) suggested a move from the Steak and Stein to the Canadiana Restaurant in Bayer's Lake Business Park. They reported on their recent eating experience there, with good food, service and price. A show of hands by the Membership present support a move to the new location for 2005. Lynn will formalise arrangements and a price for a fixed menu. The suggested date to be Saturday, February 19.

Reports & Announcements:

SSTV Net – Jim (VE1SFX) spoke to the inform SSTV Net that is now taking place on Thursday evenings on 146.490 simplex. For more detailed information on this Net please refer to page #8 of the January Reflector.

DX Forum – Dick (VE1AI) spoke to the very successful DX Forum that took place at the home of Scott (VE1QD) last August. Plans are underway to hold a bigger and better Form in the summer of 2005.

Public Relations – Wayne (VE1WPH) spoke to the PR activities that have taken place recently. He reported that he and Dick (VE1AI) had worked with Jenny Higgins a Journalism Student and reporter from the Dalhousie University Radio Station CKDU to inform on the capabilities of Amateur Radio as a vehicle for emergency communication in a disaster such as the recent Tsunami in South Asia. An audio file of her radio piece is available on the Club web site for review - <http://www.halifax-arc.org/> - follow the links from the home page.

Door Prize – was won by Doug (VE1LDL) .

50:50 Draw – the draw (\$19.00) was won by George (VE1GAB).

Evening Speaker – Dick (VE1AI) gave an interesting and informative talk on Award and Certificate Hunting in Amateur Radio. He outlined the wide range and variety of awards that Hams can compete for and gave some examples of awards he has received. Gary (VE1RGB) showed an unusual and unofficial award that he

received from several friends following a DX-pedition that he took part in to Sable Island. The plaque consisted of a laminated photograph of several Sable Island ponies, and several chunks of well dried horse "dung" sitting on some Sable Island sand, and all affixed to a piece of well oiled hardwood.

Respectfully submitted by:
Howard Dickson – VE1DHD,
Secretary

Some APRS Basics (Continued from page 5)

mobile activities including going for a sail along the coast as long as there is sufficient digipeaters along the route. There are many websites dedicated to APRS which can be found simply by searching for "APRS" with your web browser. . The Canadian web site for monitoring APRS information including searching for a specific call sign is <http://www.canaprs.net/>

If anyone has any questions, suggestions, or words of enlightenment regarding this subject please contact me at rsgardiner@eastlink.ca. If there is sufficient interest we can arrange for demonstration at the club station some Saturday morning. Since GPS units do not work indoors we can wait for a warm spring day.

 **Answer to puzzler on page 5**

In amateur circles, what did the initials CAROA stand for?

Answer: Canadian Amateur Radio Operators Association, one of the predecessors of RAC, CARF, CRRL and other national organizations. It was active prior to 1950. The organization published a magazine called XTAL. The July 1947 issue featured an ad by the War Assets Corporation, advertising war surplus transmitters, receivers, relays and Selsyn generators.

*A three year old boy in his bath examined his testicles and asked, "Mommy, are these my brains?"
Mom said, "Not yet, honey."*

From the Mail Bag

Here is some great news for the folks that live in the Halifax and Dartmouth area.

January 4, 2004 Seaside FM (94.7) increased their transmission coverage by installing a new antenna up higher on an Aliant tower in Eastern Passage, Nova Scotia. Up until now the old antenna was up on the fire station in Eastern Passage.

For the listeners in the local area, Seaside FM could only be picked up mobile, in your car radio's. Now most of us can pick up this station in our homes.

Keep in mind that Seaside FM operates on only 50 Watts opposed to the other FM stations running 100,000 Watts. So if you experience reception problems, moving your radio around may help. Connecting a longer antenna wire to your FM Antenna lead will help as well. You may even be encouraged to place a little antenna outside if the need arises.

This FM Radio station plays a variety of great easy listening music from the 50's, 60's and 70's. Some of the well known broadcasters are on hand, Paul Marr, Paul Kennedy, Gail Rice, Ian MacPhee, Melissa Keith, Wayne Adams and many more.

Joe Bellefontaine, VE1EEE

From the ARRL Letter,

At age 100, ARRL member Emma Berg, W0JUV/AAR7AX, of Lawrence, Kansas, remains active daily in the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS). Berg achieved centenarian status on Sunday, January 16. The occasion elicited greetings this week from ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, who extended best wishes to Emma Berg and congratulated her on more than four decades as a member of both Army MARS and the ARRL.

Amateur Radio, like all hobbies, has its moments of frustration. But it has lots more good moments, too – like finally working that DX station you have been transmitting at for an hour. Otherwise, why would we do it, right?

The other night I had a brief exchange on 160M that left me with this strange satisfying after-glow to the point where I indulged in some uncharacteristic thinking to try to figure out just why that should be so. The whole exchange took less than two minutes, yet the affect lasted for hours! I wound up concluding that I had just experienced a rare example of the "**Perfect Q**", and I can even define that. So, a Perfect Q, viewed from my end of the circuit and keeping the circumstances of the moment in mind, had the following attributes:

1. Someone called me, rather than the other way around;
2. The call was completely unexpected;
3. The call was from a friend;
4. It occurred during a CW contest with a crowded band, thereby adding some challenge to the situation;
5. I knew the other op was good and I was instantly at ease, knowing that we would have no trouble communicating;
6. The other op was running fast enough to make it interesting;
7. Not only did data get passed, but it was presented effectively such that some intelligence, not just simply numbers and letters, came across. That is to say, the whole was greater than the sum of the parts;
8. Neither op made a single sending error;
9. Both ops used abbreviations and format to best advantage;
10. Both ops demonstrated good operating practicing by not creating QRM for the guy whose frequency they were on when the call was first made;
11. Both ops executed a perfect QSY;
12. Each op scored a point and a multiplier as the result of the exchange;
13. Each op scored another point, and perhaps another multiplier as well, from the guy who was listening to our brief exchange and called each of us afterwards; and
14. The exchange was crisp and efficient.

In order to protect the anonymity of the other guy, I must limit my description of him to the name Dick and disavow any knowledge of his previous association with R&S Electronics. He's always that good; I'm not.

73, Gary, VE1RGB

eQSL Awards Programme (Jan. 29 2005)

Tim Kirby, G4VXE, a member of the eQSL Advisory Board, reports that the eQSL scheme has now been running for over five years. Over 80,000 users from 300 countries have registered. Callsigns from uploaded logs are 'matched' and country, State and zone credits are awarded. Users may, if they wish, print out eQSLs either on their own printers or at the eQSL headquarters, although this is not necessary for the eQSL awards programme. The eDX award is available for those who have a minimum of 25 countries confirmed by eQSL, making it very popular with beginners. Over 1500 eDX Awards have been earned so far, with 147 of those being awarded to UK amateurs. For the more experienced DXer, the eDX100 award is available which provides a greater challenge, and only five UK amateurs - G0TSM, G3VAO, G0BLB, G3MPB and G3LHJ - have received this award. The leading UK Foundation licensee is M3RDX, with 84 countries confirmed.

If you haven't yet registered on eQSL you are invited to visit www.eqsl.cc and join in the fun. You may be surprised at some of the eQSLs waiting for you.

D. Howard Dickson - VE1DHD

This was posted on the IRLP owner group

Friday 17 December 2004 at 13:52 UTC, US astronaut Leroy Chiao, KE5BRW on board the International Space Station answered questions from students gathered in University College Cork, Ireland.

ESA, the European Space Agency, had set up an educational event for several schools in Ireland and ten classes participated to the venue in Cork. The students had prepared 10 questions and Leroy answered all. When Danielle asked "What can you see when you look out the window of the space station?", Leroy said he could see cities, airports, etc but he was still looking to see the Great Wall of China.

This space talk was done by "telebridge". The day of the Cork event the passes of the ISS over Ireland were very early in the morning. Therefore it was decided to do the contact by one of the ARISS ground stations. VK5ZAI, Tony Hutchison, located in Kingston, south-east Australia, provided the radio contact in the amateur two meter band. MCI, the world telecom company, offered the phone link to Ireland as well as to the USA from where Will merchant, K6ROL, moderated the contact. Moreover, the audio was circulated by IRLP, thank you Wayne.

In Cork, an audience of over 300 students, teachers and VIP listened to the space talk. On a big screen, showing the world map, they could see the ISS approaching from the Indian Ocean and crossing the Australian continent. Jeremy Sheehan EI5GM operated the phone and presented the mike to the students. The signals were crystal clear.

Several newspapers, a TV station and the Irish national radio broadcast station covered the event.

The ESA representatives and the academic authorities were delighted and extended thanks to the ARISS volunteers for a job well done.

I replied, describing our activities in making it happen.

73 Rob VE1KS

Here is a interesting Canadian link. It's airport traffic communication.

<http://www.canairradio.com/>

This group recently initiated a program called 'YYZ Airport Watch'. This basically lets the members of this scanner group have an extra eye for the security while enjoying their hobby.

An encouraging thing is that the airport authorities are positive about this program and are looking forward to working with this group and taking advantage of the scanner listeners' technical knowledge in their own field.

See the details in their newsletter on the following link.

<http://www.canairradio.com/airportwatch.html>

73's Sohail Anjum., VE3ITU.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 24, #03, January 21, 2005

Echo satellite – AMSAT plans to reschedule its Kid's Day activity on the satellite for an as-yet-unannounced Saturday in February.

The AO-51 FM voice uplink is 145.920 MHz (with 67 Hz CTCSS tone required); downlink is 435.300 MHz.

The 9k6 digital PBBS uplink is 145.860 MHz FM; downlink is 435.150 MHz FM.

PBBS stands for Packsat Broadcast Protocol BBS --AMSAT News Service

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 24, No. 03, January 21, 2005

INDUSTRY CANADA REPORTS "OVERWHELMING AGREEMENT" TO DROP MORSE

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) reports that an Industry Canada (IC) analysis has found "overwhelming agreement" that Canada should move away from retaining a Morse code requirement as "the sole means of gaining access" to the HF amateur bands. IC has posted a summary of comments from the amateur community to RAC's Recommendations from Radio Amateurs of Canada to Industry Canada concerning Morse Code and Related Matters.

"Amateurs should note that while the responses heavily favoured deletion of the Morse Qualification as a requirement for access to the HF bands, Industry Canada still has to make and announce a decision on Morse retention or deletion," RAC emphasized. IC reported 123 comments in favour of relaxing the code requirement in Canada; 19 "clearly opposed"; 6 comments were inconclusive.

The regulatory agency also has attempted to gauge the level of support for each of RAC's 12 license restructuring recommendations. IC said it would formulate a plan to implement changes emerging from the consultation process.

RAC notes that until IC announces a decision to delete Morse, Canadian amateurs not holding the Morse Qualification may not operate on the HF bands.

The Industry Canada comment summary is on IC's Web site
<http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/en/sf08280e.html>

REMINDER

Have you changed your address? Got a new call sign?

We need to know your correct address to get the newsletter to you. Please inform Tom Caithness, VE1GTC, of any address changes.

Sent: January 11, 2005
 To: Canadian_Amateur_Radio_Group@yahooroups.com
 Subject: Ham radio operators help during disaster by Jim Lokay,

News 10 Now Web Staff.
 FYI, Sohail Anjum.. VE3ITU.

They can be as simple as a receiver, a microphone, and a battery. But they've become a key component in the relief efforts following the tsunami in Southeast Asia.

"Mostly passing along health and welfare traffic, letting people know how loved ones are doing, but also to coordinate supplies and things like that," said ham radio operator Chris Perrine.

And that's what the Red Cross and other relief organizations are doing. India has about twenty thousand ham radio operators.

One group boasts about a sixty percent success rate in locating lost loved ones alive and well.

A lab at Syracuse's Museum of Science and Technology serves to educate the public about what being a ham radio operator is all about.

Of course, the past decade has changed the way we communicate with the rest of the world.

We're more likely to head to a keyboard than pick up a radio to talk with someone on the other side of the globe.

But incidents like the tsunami are showing there will always be room for ham radio.

"A few years ago we heard a lot of talk about 'oh, the cell phones are going to snuff out ham radio, no need for it.' And it's been proven time and time again when a cell network goes down, power goes out, a ham radio is still there to provide communications," Perrine said.

In fact, local governments in India are providing ham operators with free phone lines and other resources to continue their efforts, all the while breathing new life and a renewed sense of purpose into an old hobby.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 50 December 24, 2004

The FCC for the first time has approved use of a **software defined radio** (SDR) device in the US. This new class of equipment allows users to share limited spectrum, increases flexibility and reduces interference concerns. "The industry's pioneering work to find more creative & efficient use of our airwaves will continue to bring benefits to consumers." FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell said after the Nov. 19 action. The Laboratory Division of the Commission's Office of Engineering and Technology issued a Grant of Certification to Vanu Inc, a software development company, for a cellular base station transmitter. SDRs can change frequency range, mode or output power without resorting to hardware changes or switches. This programmable capacity permits radios to be highly adaptable to changing needs, protocols and environments. An FCC rule making proceeding, ET Docket 03-108, is pending to further streamline SDR requirements. The ARRL has told the FCC that Amateur Radio is "a fertile testing ground" for SDRs and that the technology would be especially valuable to facilitate disaster communications.

Barbara Walters did a story on gender roles in Kabul several years before the Afghan conflict. She noted that women customarily walked about 5 paces behind their spouse, as a sign of submission to the superiority of the husband. She returned to Kabul recently and observed that women still walk behind their husbands, but now seem to walk even further back and are now happy with the old custom.

Ms. Walters approached one of the Afghani women and asked. "With the removal of the Taliban and the new government recognizing the equality of women, why do you now seem happy with the old custom?"

"Land mines," said the woman.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 50 December 24, 2004

FCC PERMITS NEW UNLICENSED WIDEBAND DEVICES, AFFIRMS UWB RULES

The FCC has adopted a Report and Order to promote introduction of new unlicensed wideband devices in the 6 GHz, 17 GHz and 24 GHz bands.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the League is looking over the final rules "to determine their impact on the amateur 24-GHz allocation and, if necessary, take steps to defend the continued usefulness of this important international allocation."

The wideband devices will include automotive safety radar systems and tracking systems for personnel location and inventory control. The Commission previously established regulations to permit marketing and operating certain types of new products incorporating ultra-wideband (UWB) technology.

The Commission amended its rules for general Part 15 unlicensed operations that use wide bandwidths but are not now classified as UWB devices. It increased the peak power limits and reduced the unwanted emission levels for three frequency bands already available for unlicensed operation: 5925-7250 MHz, 16.2-17.2 GHz, and 23.12-29 GHz.

Higher peak power limits in these bands will facilitate wideband operations such as short-range communication, collision avoidance, inventory control and tracking systems, the Commission said.

The FCC also amended its measurement procedures to permit frequency-hopped, swept frequency, and gated systems operating within these bands to be measured in their normal operating mode.

The FCC also dismissed petitions for reconsideration filed by the Satellite Industry Association and by Cingular Inc, and it reaffirmed UWB decisions it adopted in its First R&O.